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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/663,891	09/16/2003	Yoshitada Okuno	204126-9003	4512
1131 7590 04/09/2007 MICHAEL BEST & FRIEDRICH LLP Two Prudential Plaza 180 North Stetson Avenue, Suite 2000 CHICAGO, IL 60601			EXAMINER WALSH, JOHN B	
			ART UNIT 2151	PAPER NUMBER
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS			04/09/2007	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/663,891

**Applicant(s)**

OKUNO, YOSHITADA

**Examiner**

John B. Walsh

**Art Unit**

2151

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 2 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-7, 9-13 and 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8 and 14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/29/03, 2/9/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☒ Other: 1/31/06, 3/15/04, 9/16/03.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 4, 10 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The claims recite “under a predetermined rule concerning random.” It is unclear what is meant with the use of the term “random” in the context of the claim limitation. Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1, 3-7, 9-13 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent App. Pub. 2002/0038337 A1.

As concerns claims 1, 3-5 and 9-11, a server which can freely communicate with a client terminal apparatus and a user terminal apparatus via a network, comprising: a communication section (communication section of server 200) which communicates with the client terminal

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apparatus and user terminal apparatus; a control section (processor, inherent for server computer to have processor) which executes control so as to attach a predetermined code (figure 1, p-code) including a character string to predetermined information in a stage in which the predetermined information is accepted, when the communication section receives the predetermined information transmitted from the client terminal apparatus; and a storage section (figure 109) which associates and stores at least the predetermined code with the predetermined information and a category (figure 103A), and further a user ID with an address (figure 7 and 9) and a reception condition (figure 121) concerning the address, wherein the control section executes the control so as to extract the predetermined code included in an electronic mail (figure 109) as information corresponding to a title (figures 109, 112, 113, 120) of the electronic mail, read the predetermined information corresponding to the predetermined code from the storage section, and return the predetermined information to the address from the communication section via the electronic mail (figures 83, 112, 98B, 108), when the communication section receives the electronic mail transmitted from the user terminal apparatus; and transmit a direct mail to the demander address (figure 31C).

As best understood concerning claims 4, 10 and 15, see above claim 1 and under a predetermined rule concerning random, date designation, and time designation (figures 10 and 44).

As concerns claims 6 and 12, an information providing support method according to claim 5, further comprising executing the control by the control section so as to transmit an HTML (figure 40) source of a predetermined code notice page including the predetermined

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code attached to the predetermined information to the client terminal apparatus via the communication section.

As concerns claims 7 and 13, an information providing support method according to claim 5, further comprising executing the control by the control section so as to transmit an electronic mail including an HTML (figure 40) source of a predetermined code notice page including the predetermined code attached to the predetermined information and a content of the predetermined code notice page to the client terminal apparatus by the communication section.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

5. Claims 2 are allowed.

6. Claims 8 and 14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Claims 2, 8 and 14 as claimed in detail wherein the reception conditions include setting information on a file format for each of the plurality of addresses, disapproval/approval of an attached file, a maximum value of the number of characters, a maximum value of an attached file size, and acceptance/rejection of a direct mail.

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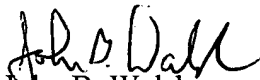
***Conclusion***

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO-892.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John B. Walsh whose telephone number is 571-272-7063. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Zarni Maung can be reached on 571-272-3939. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

  
John B. Walsh  
Primary Examiner  
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